

a department of agriculture, of mechanics, of mining, and of normal instruction.

Children must  
attend school.

SEC. 15. *Children must attend school.* The General Assembly is hereby empowered to enact that every child, of sufficient mental and physical ability, shall attend the public schools during the period between the ages of six and eighteen years, for a term of not less than sixteen months, unless educated by other means.

## ARTICLE X

### HOMESTEADS AND EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions.

SECTION 1. *Exemptions of personal property.* The personal property of any resident of this State, to the value of five hundred dollars, to be selected by such resident, shall be and is hereby exempted from sale under execution or other final process of any court, issued for the collection of any debt.

Homestead.

SEC. 2. *Homestead.* Every homestead, and the dwellings and buildings used therewith, not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, to be selected by the owner thereof, or in lieu thereof, at the option of the owner, any lot in a city, town, or village with the dwellings and buildings used thereon, owned and occupied by any resident of this State, and not exceeding the value of one thousand dollars, shall be exempt from sale under execution or other final process obtained on any debt. But no property shall be exempt from sale for taxes or for payment of obligations contracted for the purchase of said premises.

Homestead ex-  
empted from  
debt.

SEC. 3. *Homestead exemption from debt.* The homestead, after the death of the owner thereof, shall be exempt from the payment of any debt during the minority of his children, or any of them.

Laborer's lien.

SEC. 4. *Laborer's lien.* The provisions of sections one and two of this article shall not be so construed as to prevent a laborer's lien for work done and performed for the person claiming such exemption, or a mechanic's lien for work done on the premises.

Benefit of widow.

SEC. 5. *Benefit of widow.* If the owner of a homestead die, leaving a widow but no children, the same shall be exempt from the debts of her husband, and the rents and profits thereof shall inure to her benefit during her widowhood, unless she be the owner of a homestead in her own right.

Property of a  
married female  
secured to her.

SEC. 6. *Property of married women secured to them.* The real and personal property of any female in this State acquired before marriage, and all property, real and personal, to which she may, after marriage, become in any manner entitled, shall be and remain the sole and separate estate and property of such female, and shall not be liable for any debts, obligations, or engagements of her husband, and may be devised, and be-